



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Preventing
environmental
damage from
hazardous waste,
and restoring
contaminated
sites for all
Californians.*



State of California


California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, August 2007

Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Modifications For KW Plastics of California (Kern County)

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites the public to review and comment on the Draft Permit Modifications for KW Plastics of California (KW Plastics), Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for their Bakersfield Hazardous Waste Recycling Facility. KW Plastics is located at 1861 Sunnyside Court, Bakersfield, which lies north of California Highway 99 at the northwest edge of the city of Bakersfield. The proposed permit modifications would allow KW Plastics to replace the existing 4-tank treatment process with a more efficient 10-tank treatment process. Public comments will be accepted during the 45-day Public Comment Period beginning on August 10, 2007 and ending on September 25, 2007.

This Fact Sheet Will Inform You About:

- Facility Description and Background
- Facility Operations
- Permit History and Proposed Modifications
- Enforcement History
- Information Repositories and Contact Information

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

August 10, 2007 through September 25, 2007

DTSC invites you to review and comment on the proposed permit modifications for KW Plastics Hazardous Waste Facility Permit. To review the documents, visit one of the locations listed under "Information Repository" on page 3 of this fact sheet. All comments must be postmarked by September 25, 2007 and e-mail or fax comments received by 5:00 PM on that same day.

Send your comments to:

Sherry Blunk
DTSC Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
SBlunk@dtsc.ca.gov
(916) 255-3596 - Fax

A public hearing on the proposed permit modifications has not been scheduled. However, interested parties can request a public hearing. Public hearing requests must include the reasons for the public hearing and the issues or concerns to be aired during the public hearing. Send public hearing requests to Sherry Blunk, DTSC Project Manager (address above). All public hearing requests must be received prior to September 25, 2007.



Facility Description and Background

In 1994, KW Plastics received their first permit, from DTSC, for the treatment of unwashed hazardous lead-impacted polypropylene chips. KW Plastics operates a plastics recycling facility located at 1861 Sunnyside Court, Bakersfield, within an industrial park found north of California Highway 99 at the northwest edge of the city of Bakersfield. The recycling facility occupies a 40,000-square foot structure on the 6.1-acre site.

Facility Operations

KW Plastics specializes in the recycling of unwashed hazardous lead-impacted polypropylene chips generated from crushing used lead-acid battery casing. The facility routinely receives the unwashed hazardous lead-impacted polypropylene chips from lead-acid battery recyclers.

The unwashed chips are classified as hazardous waste because lead waste adheres to the chips. During operating hours the facility receives an average of five trucks per day each delivering about 40,000 pounds of unwashed chips. The trucks enter the property through the northwest entrance, unload the chips at the truck lift, and exit through the entrance route.

Upon arrival, the unwashed chips are emptied into a stainless steel receiving hopper. The chips are washed/rinsed in water removing the lead contaminants. The washed chips are sampled to ensure they are free of lead contaminants. Once cleared of contaminants, the washed chips are dried and placed into storage silos. KW Plastics uses the washed chips in their injection molding system to manufacture plastic paint cans. The wash/rinse wastewater is filtered, sampled to ensure it is non-hazardous, and then reused in the wash/rinse process.

What Happens to the Hazardous Waste

After the wastewater is filtered and the sampling indicates it is still hazardous, then the filtering process is repeated. The hazardous lead waste removed from the wastewater is consolidated into a cake-like consistency, baled with other hazardous debris, and put in the hazardous storage area. Within 90-days, the

hazardous lead waste is move to a hazardous waste landfill.

Permit History

In June 1994, KW Plastics was issued their first permit from DTSC.

In June 2000, a modification to the permit was approved, which increased the volume of unwashed hazardous lead-impacted polypropylene chips treated and recycled. This permit modification authorized the facility to accept and process a maximum of 31,207 tons of unwashed hazardous lead-impacted polypropylene chips per year, with a monthly maximum of 2,600 tons. The permit also allowed the facility to wash/rinse the received hazardous lead-impacted polypropylene chips with 36,900 gallons per day of wastewater.

In April 2004, the facility renewed its permit for an additional 10-year period.

In April 2006 (amendments received in March and July 2007), KW Plastics requested to modify their current permit.

Proposed Permit Modification

The proposed Class 3 permit modifications will allow KW Plastics to replace the existing 4-tank treatment process with a new upgraded 10-tank treatment process. The modifications to the tank treatment process is expected to take three to four weeks to complete. Until the new tank treatment process is in place and certified as operational, all incoming hazardous waste shipments will be halted at their point of origin. These permit modifications will not increase the facility's waste volume capacity.

The permit modifications include:

- Replacement of existing drying system (spin dryer and rotating dryer) with 3 high efficiency spin dryers, each with a 360 to 540 gallons water recycling tank, and a drying tower;
- Replacement of the existing 2,800-gallon float separator tank with 2 wash tanks (6,700-gallon and 5,400-gallon) and a rinse tank (6,700-gallon);

- Replacement of the existing 4,500-gallon float separator tank with a 6,700-gallon float separator tank, including a 280-gallon water recycling tank;
- Replacement of the existing 5,000-gallon water recovery tank with a 7,800-gallon water recovery tank; and
- Replacement of the existing 500-gallon holding tank with a 7,800-gallon holding tank.

In addition, to the tank replacements, the secondary containment berm for the existing treatment room will be increased to ensure adequate containment volume for the wastewater stored within these new tank ancillary piping.

Below is a summary of the benefits of the new tank treatment process:

- No new or significant impacts on the environment;
- Improved treatment efficiency for the chips and wastewater;
- Prevent disruption of ongoing waste management activities;
- Decrease in utility consumption;
- Decrease in personnel exposure and manpower requirements;
- Decrease overall chip treatment time; and
- Increase in worker safety.

Additionally, KW Plastics submitted a Class 1* permit modification to alter the facility's previously approved closure plan for the existing 4-tank treatment units.

DTSC initiated a Class 1 permit modification to make minor administrative corrections to the permit.

Enforcement History

DTSC inspects KW Plastics on a 3-year basis. Results of the last three inspections are listed below:

March 2007: Full inspection completed with no violations sited.

October 2004: Full inspection completed with no violations sited, and in June 2005, a Financial Assurance Review was conducted and KW Plastics was found in compliance.

In November 2001: Full inspection completed with 2 minor violations sited. Both violations were corrected at the time of inspection.

Inspection Reports for KW Plastics are available for review at DTSC's Clovis Office located at 1515 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, CA 93611-0522.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

When DTSC issues, renews, or modifies a permit, CEQA requires us to evaluate any possible effects our decision might have on the environment. The proposed modifications will result in no net changes in the KW Plastics operations (the amounts of wastewater generated and treated and the amount of raw material treated will remain constant), the environment around the facility, or in regulations pertaining to the facility since our last CEQA evaluation. DTSC has found that the proposed modifications will not result in any new environmental impacts that were not analyzed or mitigated in the previous two Negative Declarations adopted for the facility, and has determined that no supplemental CEQA review is required. A copy of the Statement of Findings and the Draft Notice of Determination (Notice of Exemption) is located at the Information Repositories listed on this page.

Information Repositories

Copies of the permit modification applications and other related documents are available for review at one of the information repositories listed as follows:

Kern County Library
200 West China Grade Loop
Bakersfield, California 93308
(661) 393-6431 - Call for hours of operation

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Sacramento Office File Room
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
(916) 255-3758 Call to schedule an appointment
(DTSC maintains the Full Administrative file)

DTSC Contact Information

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact:

Sherry Blunk
Project Manager
DTSC Sacramento Office
8800 Cal Center Drive, 2nd floor
Sacramento, California 95826
(916) 255-3579
E mail: SBlunk@dtsc.ca.gov

For questions regarding Public Participation Activities, please contact:

Jesus Cruz
Public Participation Specialist
DTSC Sacramento Office
8800 Cal Center Drive. 3rd Floor
Sacramento, California 95826
(916) 255-3315 or 1(866) 495-5651 (toll free)
E mail: JCruz@dtsc.ca.gov

For questions regarding the media or Members of the media, please contact:

Jeanne Garcia
DTSC Public Information Officer
(818) 551-2176
E mail: JGarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to Hearing Impaired

TDD users can use the California State Relay Service at: 1-888-877-5378 and ask to speak with Jesus Cruz at (916) 255-3315 regarding KW Plastics' proposed permit modifications.

Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de ésta información, favor de llamar a Jesus Cruz, Departamento de Control de Substancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es 916-255-3315.